Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer storage media ~~readable medium~~ having computer-executable instructions, comprising:

retrieving meta-data of a resource that is replicated on a plurality of machines, the resource having meta-data and content that reside~~resides~~ on each machine on which the resource is replicated, the meta-data including one or more values that are updated whenever the content of the resource is changed via any local update and a fence value that is independent of any local changes to the content;

comparing a first fence value of the content on a first machine of the plurality of machines with a second fence value of the content on a second machine of the plurality of machines; ~~and~~

determining whether the first fence value is of higher precedence than the second fence value; and

~~if the first fence value is of higher precedence than the second fence value,~~ updating the resource residing on the second machine based on the determining.

2. (Currently Amended) The computer storage media ~~readable medium~~ of claim 1, wherein the meta-data is stored in a store separate from the content.

3. (Currently Amended) The computer storage media ~~readable medium~~ of claim 1, wherein updating the resource residing on the second machine comprises determining one or more differences between the content on the first and second machines and transmitting the one or more differences.

4. (Currently Amended) The computer storage media ~~readable medium~~ of claim 1, wherein updating the resource residing on the second machine comprises transmitting the meta-data only.

5. (Currently Amended) The computer storage media ~~readable medium~~ of claim 4, wherein the content on the first and second machines is the same.

6. (Currently Amended) The computer storage media ~~readable medium~~ of claim 1, wherein the content comprises file data and file attributes.

7. (Currently Amended) The computer storage media ~~readable medium~~ of claim 1, wherein each meta-data on each machine comprises a digest that summarizes the resource.

8. (Currently Amended) The computer storage media ~~readable medium~~ of claim 8, further comprising comparing the digests of the meta-data on the machines and bypassing updating if the digests are equivalent.

9. (Currently Amended) The computer storage media ~~readable medium~~ of claim 1, wherein updating the second machine comprises updating the second fence value to equal the first fence value.

10. (Currently Amended) The computer storage media ~~readable medium~~ of claim 1, further comprising if the fence values are equivalent, comparing other data in the meta-data to determine whether content should be updated.

11. (Currently Amended) The computer storage media ~~readable medium~~ of claim 1, wherein each fence value is assigned to a portion or portions of its respective resource.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer storage media ~~readable medium~~ of claim 1, wherein content with a certain fence value is not propagated to other machines.

13. (Currently Amended) The computer storage media ~~readable medium~~ of claim 1, wherein content with a certain fence value is invisible to other machines.

14. Cancelled

15. (Currently Amended) The computer storage media ~~readable medium~~ of claim 1, further comprising keeping each fence value the same as the content associated with the fence value changes.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer storage media ~~readable medium~~ having computer-executable instructions, comprising:

determining whether a first resource residing on a first machine should be used to update a second resource residing on a second machine, each resource associated with meta-data and content, each meta-data including one or more fields that are updated whenever the content of the associated resource is changed and a fence value, each fence value indicating whether its associated resource should be used to update a resource on another machine at a higher precedence than from other meta-data;

~~if the fence value of the second resource indicates that the second resource should not be propagated from the second machine,~~ preventing propagation from the second machine based on the fence value of the second resource indicating that the second resource should not be propagated; and

~~if the fence value of the first resource is of a higher precedence than the fence value of the second resource,~~ updating the second resource from the first resource based on the fence value of the first resource having a higher precedence than the fence value of the second resource.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer storage media ~~readable medium~~ of claim 16, further comprising if the fence values of the first and second resources are equivalent, determining which machine will update the other based on meta-data other than the fence values.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer storage media ~~readable medium~~ of claim 17, wherein the other meta-data comprises a logical clock indicating the last time the corresponding content was updated.

19. (Currently Amended) The computer storage media ~~readable medium~~ of claim 18, wherein a fence value indicates that its corresponding resource may be propagated to other machines until another resource with a higher fence value is located on another machine.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer storage media ~~readable medium~~ of claim 16, wherein the meta-data associated with the first resource is stored in a separate data structure from its corresponding resource.

21. (Currently Amended) The computer storage media ~~readable medium~~ of claim 20, wherein the data structure is corrupted or deleted, further comprising rebuilding the data structure and decrementing the fence value associated with the first resource.

22. (Currently Amended) The computer storage media ~~readable medium~~ of claim 21, further comprising rebuilding the data structure a plurality of times and decrementing the fence value associated with the first resource each time the data structure is rebuilt.

23. (Currently Amended) The computer storage media ~~readable medium~~ of claim 22, further comprising if the fence value of the second resource is of a higher precedence than the fence value of the first resource, updating the first resource from the second resource.

24-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) A system for replicating data, comprising:

a first machine having a first set of resources;

a second machine having a second set of resources~~resource~~, wherein each resource on each machine is associated with meta-data and content, each meta-data including one or more fields that are updated whenever the content of the associated resource is changed and a

fence value, each fence value indicating whether its associated resource should be used to update a resource on another machine independently from other meta-data, wherein the first and second machines are configured to:

communicate information regarding the resources contained by both machines; and

update each resource that is out-of-date according to the following precedence:

determining whether a fence value of a resource on one of the machines is of higher precedence than the fence value of a corresponding resource on the other machine;

if a fence value of a resource on one of the machines is of higher precedence than the fence value of a corresponding resource on the other machine, updating the other machine with the resource on the one machine; otherwise

updating the resource on the machines based on data other than the fence values.

32. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein the first set of resources is loaded from a backup and the fence values thereof are set to cause the first set of resources to have precedence over any other set of resources, such that any other set of resources on any other machine that corresponds to the set of resources are updated from the first set of resources.

33. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein the fence values of the first set of resources are marked to have precedence over corresponding resources on other machines, such that the corresponding resources are updated from the first set of resources.